3-month summary

- The chances of a wet period are similar to normal
- A similar to normal likelihood of a windy period
- Only a small chance of the period being cold overall
- However, cold spells and related impacts remain possible, especially later in the period

3-month likelihood of impact

Temperature

10% chance the season will be COLD	55% chance the season will be NEAR AVERAGE	35% chance the season will be MILD
0.5× the normal chance ▼	0.9× the normal chance ▼	1.8× the normal chance ▲

Precipitation

20% chance the season will be DRY	60% chance the season will be NEAR AVERAGE	20% chance the season will be WET
1.0× the normal chance ▲▼	1.0× the normal chance ▲▼	1.0× the normal chance ▲▼

Wind speed

25% chance the season will be CALM	55% chance the season will be NEAR AVERAGE	20% chance the season will be WINDY
1.3× the normal chance ▲	0.9× the normal chance ▼	1.0× the normal chance ▲▼

1-month summary

- October is more likely to be warm than cool
- The chances of either a wet or dry October are balanced
- The likelihood of October being windy is similar to normal

1-month likelihood of impact

Temperature

5% chance the month will be COOL	55% chance the month will be NEAR AVERAGE	40% chance the month will be WARM
0.3× the normal chance	0.9× the normal chance	2.0× the normal chance

Precipitation

15% chance the month will be DRY	70% chance the month will be NEAR AVERAGE	15% chance the month will be WET
0.8× the normal chance	1.2× the normal chance	0.8× the normal chance

Wind speed

15% chance the month will be CALM	65% chance the month will be NEAR AVERAGE	20% chance the month will be WINDY
0.8× the normal chance	1.1× the normal chance	1.0× the normal chance

Understanding the Outlook

The Outlook uses 3 categories for possible UK temperature, precipitation and wind speed in the next 1 and 3 months:

COLD, NEAR AVERAGE and MILD for 3-month temperature
COOL, NEAR AVERAGE and WARM for 1-month temperature
WET, NEAR AVERAGE and DRY for precipitation
CALM, NEAR AVERAGE and WINDY for wind speed

These are linked to observed UK conditions in past years. The NEAR AVERAGE category represents typical conditions for the period and has a normal likelihood of 60%. The higher and lower categories represent more unusual conditions that are more likely to produce impacts. Each has a normal likelihood of 20%.

The Outlook shows how the chances of occurrence of the categories differ from normal, based on knowledge of expected global meteorological patterns. It does not identify which category will actually occur.

Same 3-month period over the last 10 years

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
MILD	MILD	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	MILD	MILD	MILD
NEAR AVERAGE	WET	DRY	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	WET	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	WET
NEAR AVERAGE	WINDY	CALM	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	CALM	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE

Same 1-month period over the last 10 years

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	WARM	NEAR AVERAGE
NEAR AVERAGE	DRY	DRY	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	WET	WET	NEAR AVERAGE	WET
WINDY	CALM	CALM	WINDY	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE

Outlook in context

Drivers of UK weather for October to December

The impact of global weather patterns on the UK increases through this period, particularly during late autumn and into winter. Drivers relevant to the current Outlook are:

- The warming of UK climate consistent with wider global warming trends
- ENSO is neutral with a transition to La Niña likely during late autumn
- Should La Niña develop this would increase the chance of northwesterly winds into early winter
- An active MJO which favours a southward shift in the track of Atlantic systems during early October

Long-range weather predictions
The Met Office and other prediction centres around the world routinely produce long-range forecasts of conditions in the months ahead. Following a likely unsettled start to October, signals are then very mixed though with a greater chance of more settled weather developing later in October. For October to December as a whole, lower than average pressure is more likely to north or northeast with higher than average pressure to the south or southeast. The balance between the influence of higher or lower than average pressure is unclear but this does increase the likelihood of northwesterly winds at times.

Impacts
Consistent with our warming climate, there is only a small chance of the period being cold. However, this does not preclude the possibility of some cold spells and related impacts later in this period. Whilst the likelihood of the period being wet is similar to normal, given the time of year, spells of wet weather are still to be expected. The wettest conditions likely over northern and western parts of the UK. Likewise, the likelihood of the period being windy as a whole is similar to normal but some stormy spells remain possible.

Outlook compared to normal likelihood

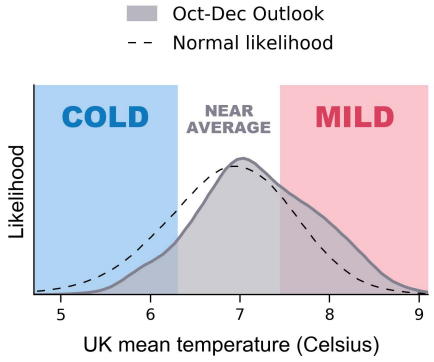
The curves below show the likelihood of the 1- and 3-month average temperature, precipitation and wind speed taking specific values. In each case:

- The dashed curve shows the normal likelihood based on how often each value has been recorded in past years
- The solid curve shows the current likelihood based on the Outlook for this year

The differences in these curves show how the probabilities for the coming periods differ compared to past years. Where the solid curve (corresponding to this year's Outlook) lies above the dashed curve (normal likelihood), the temperature, precipitation or wind speed at that point has a greater-than-normal likelihood of occurring. Likewise, wherever it is below the dashed curve, the likelihood of those values is less than normal.

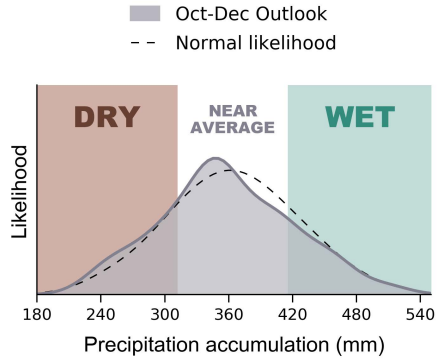
A shift of the solid curve to the left of the dashed curve indicates an increase in the chances of below-average temperature, rainfall or winds. A shift to the right, meanwhile, indicates increased chances of above-average values.

3-month temperature Outlook compared to normal



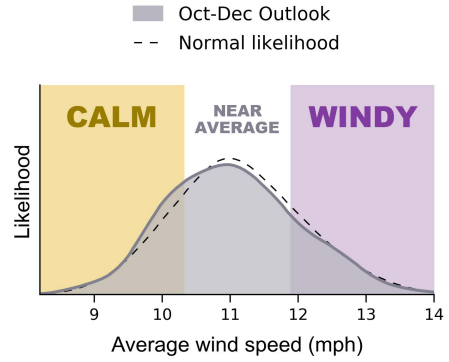
Likelihood leans towards mild

3-month precipitation Outlook compared to normal



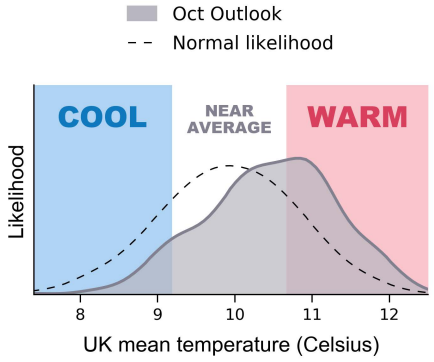
Balanced likelihood of wet and dry

3-month wind speed Outlook compared to normal



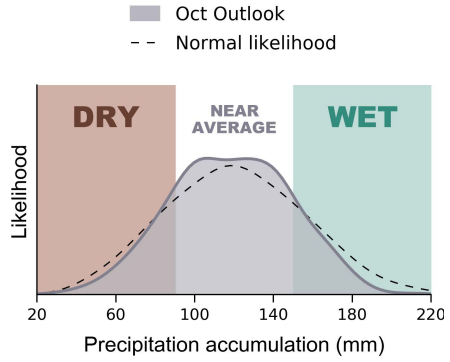
Balanced likelihood of calm and windy

1-month temperature Outlook compared to normal



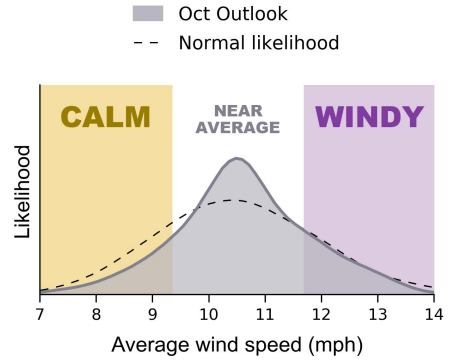
Likelihood leans towards warm

1-month precipitation Outlook compared to normal



Balanced likelihood of wet and dry

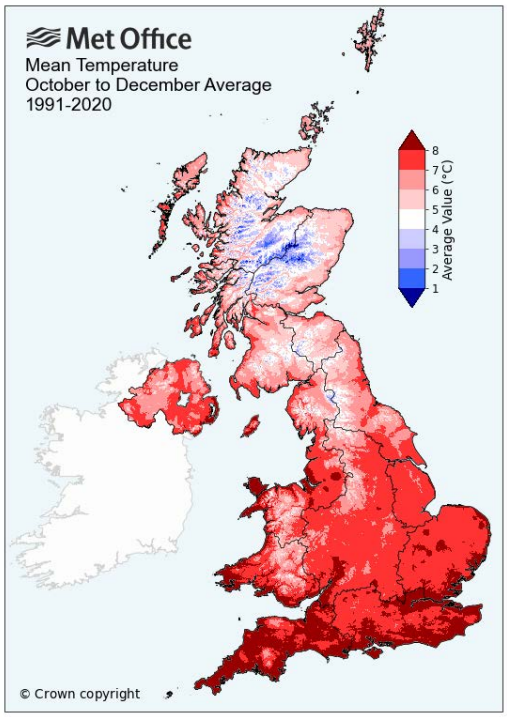
1-month wind speed Outlook compared to normal



Balanced likelihood of calm and windy

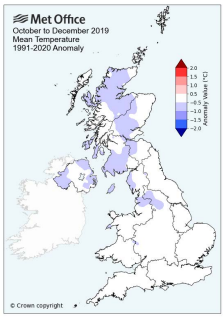
Long-term average temperatures (3-month)

This page shows the long-term average temperatures across the UK applicable to the 3-month Outlook period.

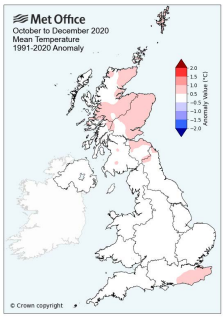


Average temperatures for October to December based on observations of past years.

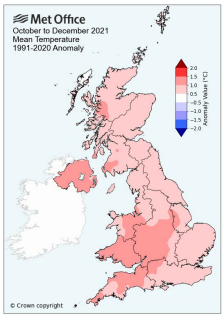
Last 5 years temperatures, difference from average (3-month)



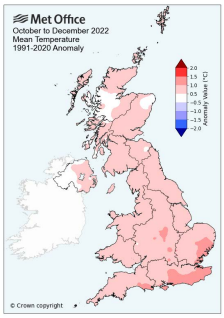
Oct - Dec 2019



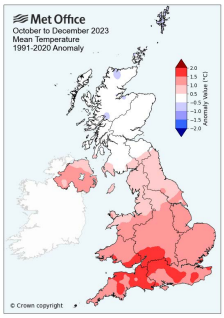
Oct - Dec 2020



Oct - Dec 2021



Oct - Dec 2022



Oct - Dec 2023

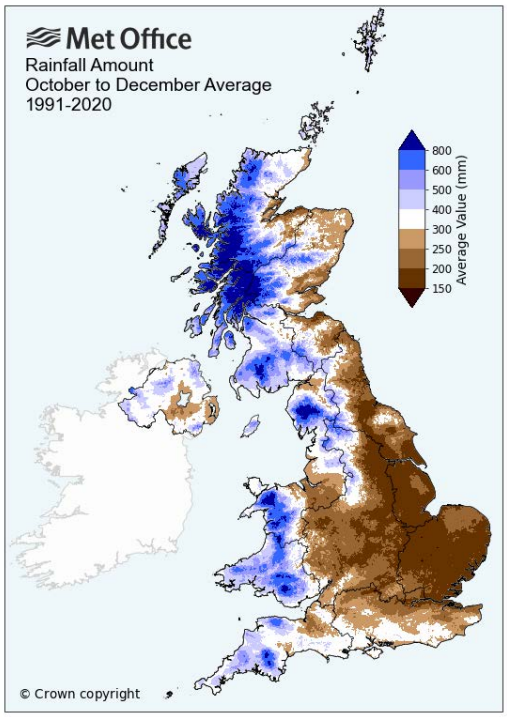
Anomaly (°C)

< -2.0	-2.0 to -1.5	-1.5 to -1.0	-1.0 to-0.5	-0.5 to 0.5	0.5 to 1.0	1.0 to 1.5	1.5 to 2.0	> 2.0

These maps show how October - December temperatures in the last five years differed from the long-term average temperatures shown above in the upper panel. Pink and red colours indicate warmer-than-average conditions while blue shades indicate cooler-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of the UK is available at www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate.

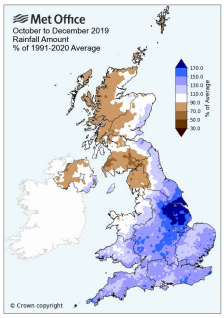
Long-term average precipitation (3-month)

This page shows the long-term average precipitation across the UK applicable to the 3-month Outlook period.

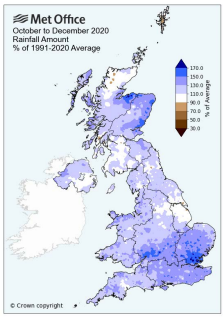


Average precipitation for October to December based on observations of past years.

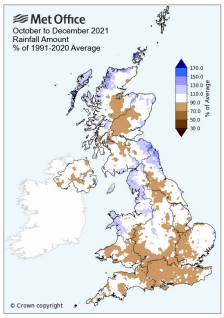
Last 5 years precipitation, difference from average (3-month)



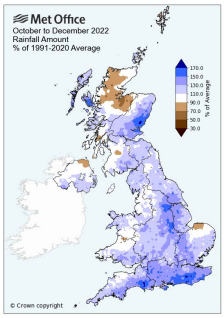
Oct - Dec 2019



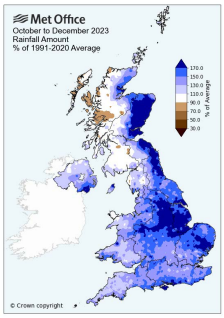
Oct - Dec 2020



Oct - Dec 2021



Oct - Dec 2022



Oct - Dec 2023

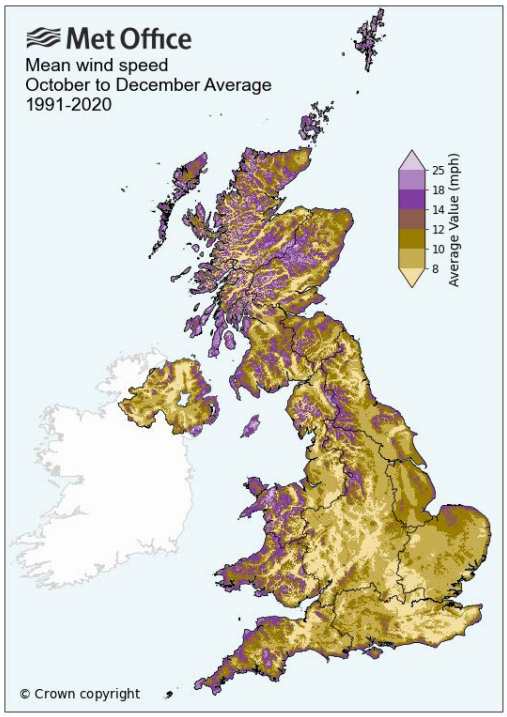
% of average

< 30	30 to 50	50 to 70	70 to 90	90 to 110	110 to 130	130 to 150	150 to 170	> 170

These maps show how October - December precipitation in the last five years differed from the long-term average precipitation shown above in the upper panel. Brown colours indicate drier-than-average conditions while blue shades indicate wetter-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of the UK is available at www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate.

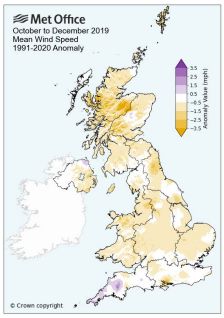
Long-term average wind speed (3-month)

This page shows the long-term average wind speed across the UK applicable to the 3-month Outlook period.

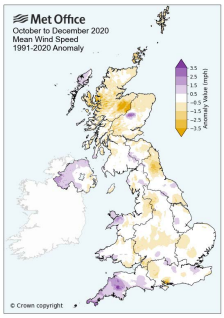


Average wind speed for October to December based on observations of past years.

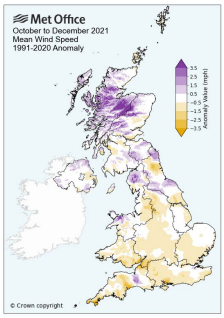
Last 5 years wind speed, difference from average (3-month)



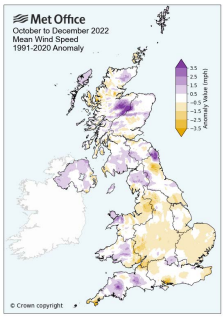
Oct - Dec 2019



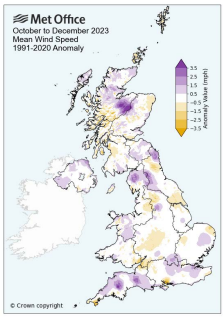
Oct - Dec 2020



Oct - Dec 2021



Oct - Dec 2022



Oct - Dec 2023

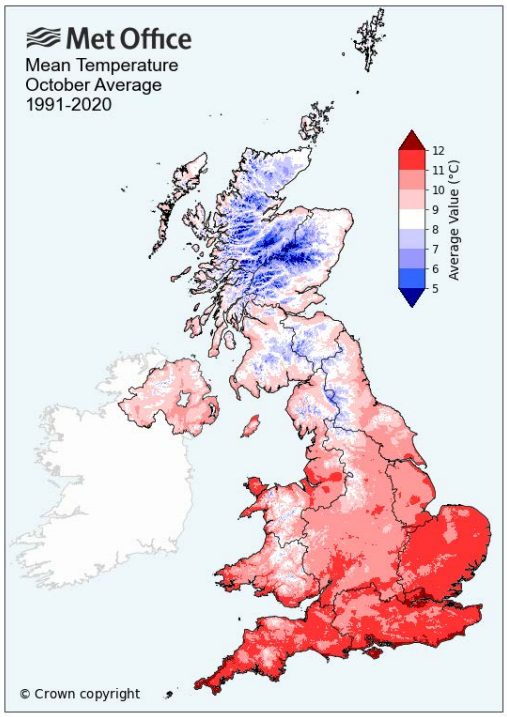
Anomaly (mph)

< -3.5	-3.5 to -2.5	-2.5 to -1.5	-1.5 to -0.5	-0.5 to 0.5	0.5 to 1.5	1.5 to 2.5	2.5 to 3.5	> 3.5

These maps show how October - December wind speed in the last five years differed from the long-term average wind speeds shown above in the upper panel. Yellow colours indicate calmer-than-average conditions while purple shades indicate windier-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of the UK is available at www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate.

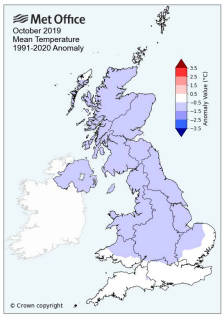
Long-term average temperatures (1-month)

This page shows the long-term average temperatures across the UK applicable to the 1-month Outlook period.

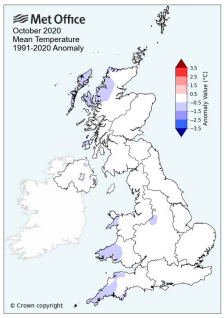


Average temperatures for October based on observations of past years.

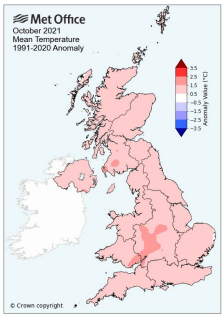
Last 5 years temperatures, difference from average (1-month)



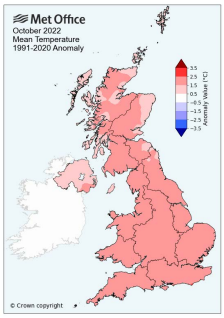
Oct 2019



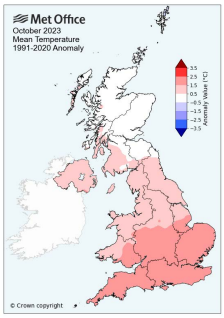
Oct 2020



Oct 2021



Oct 2022



Oct 2023

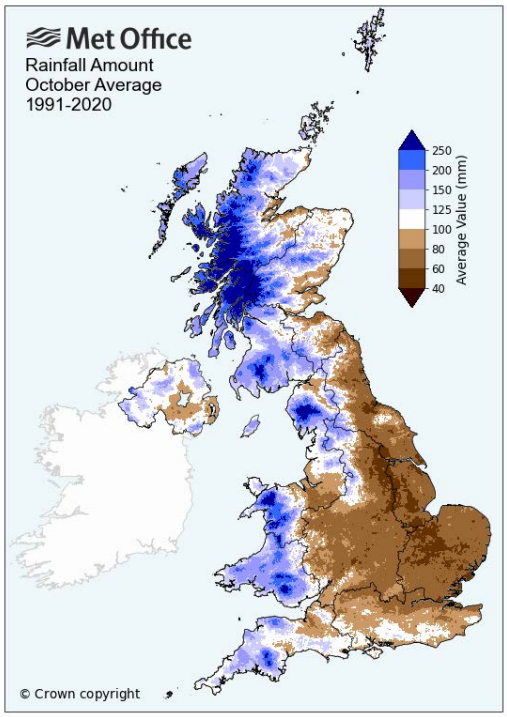
Anomaly (°C)

< -3.5	-3.5 to -2.5	-2.5 to -1.5	-1.5 to -0.5	-0.5 to 0.5	0.5 to 1.5	1.5 to 2.5	2.5 to 3.5	> 3.5

These maps show how October temperatures in the last five years differed from the long-term average temperatures shown above in the upper panel. Pink and red colours indicate warmer-than-average conditions while blue shades indicate cooler-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of the UK is available at www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate.

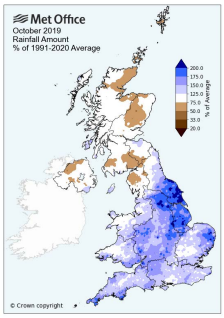
Long-term average precipitation (1-month)

This page shows the long-term average precipitation across the UK applicable to the 1-month Outlook period.

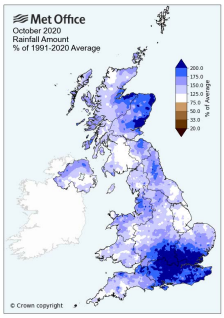


Average precipitation for October based on observations of past years.

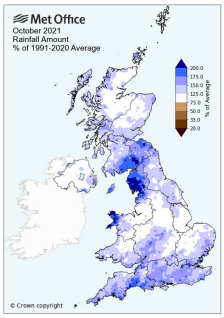
Last 5 years precipitation, difference from average (1-month)



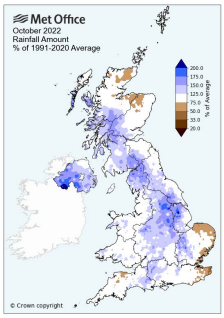
Oct 2019



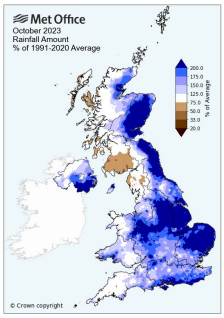
Oct 2020



Oct 2021



Oct 2022



Oct 2023

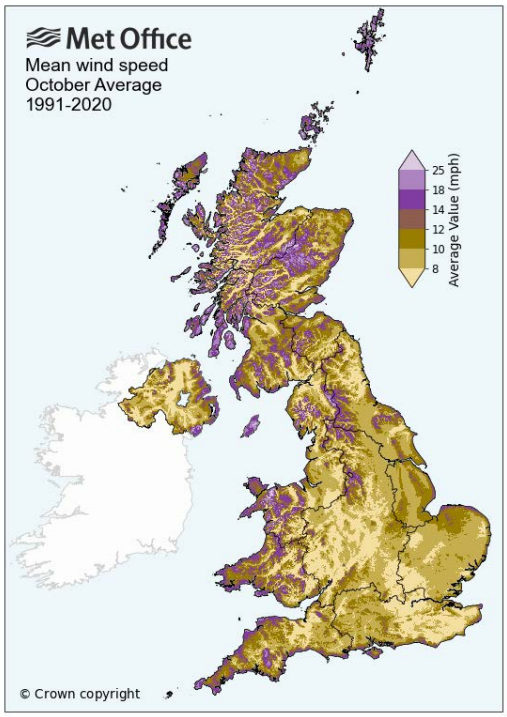
% of average

< 20	20 to 33	33 to 50	50 to 75	75 to 125	125 to 150	150 to 175	175 to 200	> 200

These maps show how October precipitation in the last five years differed from the long-term average precipitation shown above in the upper panel. Brown colours indicate drier-than-average conditions while blue shades indicate wetter-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of the UK is available at www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate.

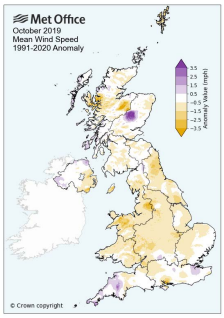
Long-term average wind speed (1-month)

This page shows the long-term average wind speed across the UK applicable to the 1-month Outlook period.

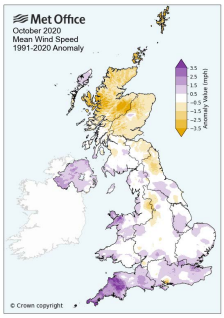


Average wind speed for October based on observations of past years.

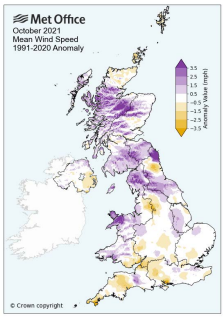
Last 5 years wind speed, difference from average (1-month)



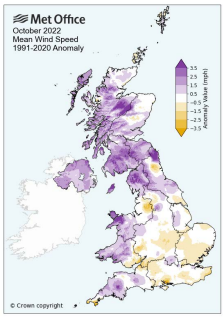
Oct 2019



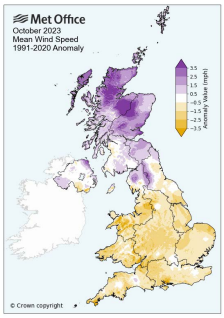
Oct 2020



Oct 2021



Oct 2022



Oct 2023

Anomaly (mph)

< -3.5	-3.5 to -2.5	-2.5 to -1.5	-1.5 to -0.5	-0.5 to 0.5	0.5 to 1.5	1.5 to 2.5	2.5 to 3.5	> 3.5

These maps show how October wind speed in the last five years differed from the long-term average wind speeds shown above in the upper panel. Yellow colours indicate calmer-than-average conditions while purple shades indicate windier-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of the UK is available at www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate.

Q&As

Q. What is the point of the Outlook, who is it meant for?
A. This Outlook is produced for planners in government and business who make risk-based decisions. These users are aware of the complexities of this type of outlook and will include those factors in their decision-making process.

Q. How did you decide on the Outlook? What are the main factors affecting it?
A. It is based on information from observations, several numerical prediction systems and expert judgement. See the 'Outlook in Context' section of the Outlook for more details.

Q. Is the Outlook for the whole country?
A. The Outlook is for the average of conditions over the UK as a whole. Regional deviations from the UK-average can occur. For example, average UK precipitation can result from below-average rainfall for the northwest and above-average for the southeast.

Q. How confident are you in this Outlook?
A. The percentages in the 'Likelihood of Impact' sections of the Outlook give the level of confidence.

Q. Does this Outlook signal an increased chance of storms and flooding?
A. The Outlook shows a similar to normal likelihood of the period being wet as a whole, but given the time of year, spells of wet weather are to be expected. The chance of the period being windy as a whole is also similar to normal but some stormy spells remain possible. Whilst the Outlook cannot specify the severity, duration, location, or timings of specific events such as storms and flooding, as is typical, northern and western parts of the UK are likely to see wetter conditions. Keep up to date the latest National Severe Weather warnings and forecast for your area on our website. The risk of flooding should be monitored using the warnings on the Environment Agency, SEPA, Natural Resources Wales and NI Direct websites.

Q. Does this Outlook mean there's no chance of cold weather in late autumn / early winter?
A. Whilst there is an increased likelihood of milder than average temperatures through the period as a whole, the risk of colder than average weather does increase slightly as we go through the Outlook period. In recent years, the likelihood of our coldest category has often been quite small reflecting the fact that UK climate has warmed compared to the long-term average. Periods of colder weather and regional variations in temperatures remain likely.

About the Outlook

The Outlook presented here is for United Kingdom as a whole and is based on information from observations, several numerical prediction systems and expert judgement. It is updated monthly to reflect the latest information on global weather patterns and their effect on the UK. The Outlook is designed to be used in conjunction with shorter-range forecasts – detailed weather forecast information is available on the Met Office website.

In this product, temperature refers to the average of daytime maxima and night-time minima. Wind speed refers to the average wind speed at a height of 10 metres. All numerical values relate to averages (temperature, wind speed) or totals (precipitation – rain, sleet, snow and hail) over 1 or 3 months, which are further averaged over the UK land area as a whole. Normal likelihood and long-term averages are established using the period 1991-2020.

Find out more

- UK 3-month Outlook user guidance page:
  https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/services/government/contingency-planners/user-guidance/user-guidance
- Explainers on climate drivers (such as the El Niño Southern Oscillation and North Atlantic Oscillation) that influence seasonal forecasts and the impacts they can have on UK weather:
  https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/services/government/contingency-planners/seasonal-forecasts-and-climate-drivers-resources
- Contingency planners page:
  https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/services/government/contingency-planners/index

Contact us

Website:
www.metoffice.gov.uk

Email:
enquiries@metoffice.gov.uk

Provide your feedback

We would like to hear your feedback on the UK 3-month Outlook to understand how it is being used. Please fill in the short form using this link or QR code to share your thoughts.